

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

DATE: March 12, 2020

TO: Mayor and City Councilmembers

FROM: Damian Dorame, Assistant to the City Manager; Nadia Rodriguez, HR Analyst

CC: Jerene Watson, City Manager; Dawn Prince, Deputy City Manager; Leadership Team

SUBJECT: COVID-19 MEETING WITH COCHISE COUNTY

The report is to provide details on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) presented by the Cochise Health & Social Services. Please note that COVID-19 is an emerging disease and there is more to learn about its transmissibility, severity, and other features and what will happen in the United States. This information is current as of 3/6/2020 and is subject to change as we learn more about the virus.

DISCUSSION:

The Assistant to the City Manager and the HR Analyst attended a meeting, held by Cochise Health & Social Services, to discuss the direction for COVID-19 planning. The discussion was led by Carrie Langley, Cochise County Health Director.

Cochise Health & Social Services created a webpage on the cochise.az.gov site for information on COVID-19. The County Health Director stated that the best practice is to direct concerned public to the County website for best continuing information.

The topics discussed are as follows:

- What is COVID-19?
- Current Situation
- Signs & Symptoms
- COVID-19 Spread
- Prevention
- Preparedness/Collaboration with Partners
- Public Health Messaging
- Recommendations

Below is a summary for each topic.

What is COVID-19?

CDC is responding to an outbreak of respiratory disease caused by a novel (new) coronavirus that was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China and which has now been detected in 37 locations internationally, including cases in the United States.

COVID-19 is a “novel” virus coronavirus, meaning that this is the first time it is being found in humans. Immunity to the virus is therefore highly unlikely. COVID-19 is a zoonotic disease, originating in animals or insects and has made the jump to humans.

Current Situation

On January 30, 2020 the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization declared the outbreak a “public health emergency of international concern” (PHEIC). On January 31, 2020, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency (PHE) for the United States to aid the nation’s healthcare community in responding to COVID-19.

As of 3/3/2020 two cases of COVID-19 have been identified in Arizona, both in Maricopa.

Signs & Symptoms

The signs & symptoms of COVID-19 are: Fever, Cough, Shortness of Breath.

It is believed that symptoms may occur in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 days.

COVID-19 Spread

The current understanding about how the virus that causes COVID-19 spreads is largely based on what is known about similar coronaviruses.

The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet)
- Via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes
- These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

It may be possible however unlikely that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this not the main way the virus spreads.

People are thought to be most contagious when they are most symptomatic (the sickest). Some spread might be possible before people who show symptoms; there have been reports of this with COVID-19, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

Prevention

The most effective ways to prevent infection with COVID-19 and any other virus or bacteria are:

- If you are feeling sick or have a fever stay home from work or school.
- If you cough, cough into your elbow.
- If you sneeze, cover your nose with a tissue and discard the tissue immediately.
- Wash your hands using soap and water often.
- If you cannot wash your hands, use hand sanitizer.
- Surfaces can be cleaned and disinfected utilizing normal household cleaning products.

Preparedness

Cochise Health & Social Services is working with other Local, State and Federal Health Officials in coordinating surveillance, public messaging, testing, resource sharing and allocation.

Cochise Health & Social Services is working closely with our county healthcare providers through an established Cochise County Healthcare Alliance to ensure coordinated and cooperative preparedness and response measures are in place and understood by all.

Cochise Health & Social Services is also working with schools and daycares to ensure surveillance and guidance is provided.

The county will be providing updates weekly and more frequently as needed.

Public Health Messaging

Masks are NOT recommended for the general public. If someone has an existing condition that may make them more susceptible to infection, it is encouraged to discuss this with their primary care provider for recommendations.

The COVID-19 disease acts and presents very much like the flu. There is no vaccine and no cure. Treatment involves supportive care (treating the symptoms).

80% of those infected with COVID-19 experience mild symptoms and treatment involves over-the-counter medications. The most susceptible population are those over 65 years of age and with pre-existing conditions, especially respiratory issues. Less than 5% of those infected actually require hospitalization.

Determinations for who requires testing is based on CDC and ADHS guidelines. Public health officials in coordination with local health care providers will make the determination if testing is required on a case by case basis. This is currently changing, and will be more broadly available.

RECOMMENDATION / CONCLUSION:

- Encourage frequent hand washing (20 seconds minimum) to students and faculty

alike.

- Encourage staff who are feeling ill to stay home.
- If a child presents ill at school, send them home.
- Continue with normal cleaning and disinfection of surfaces.
- Keep your staff, children and parents informed.
- Encourage everyone to cover their cough and sneezes.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.

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The report is in response to a question from (xxx name) regarding (state issue in a sentence or two).

DISCUSSION:

RECOMMENDATION / CONCLUSION:

(List recommendation or your conclusion)

(OR state)

This report is for information only.